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NO. 43

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CHALLENGERS OF THE UNKNOWN

INTO THE FASCINATING--
AND BESIEGED--WORLD
OF TOMORROW GO A
FAMOUS TEAM FROM
TODAY, TO DO BATTLE
WITH AN AWESOME
THING FROM OUT OF
YESTERDAY!

FOUR AGAINST MONSTRO



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THERE IS NOTHING UNUSUAL GOING ON INSIDE THE CHALLENGERS' MOUNTAIN CAVE... NOT YET ANYWAY...

FIND ANYTHING IN THAT LAKE, PROF?

NOPE-- TOO MUCH SEDIMENT! I'D HOPED TO BRING UP SOME INDIAN RELICS! LET ME GET OUT OF THIS WET SUIT, AND I'LL --

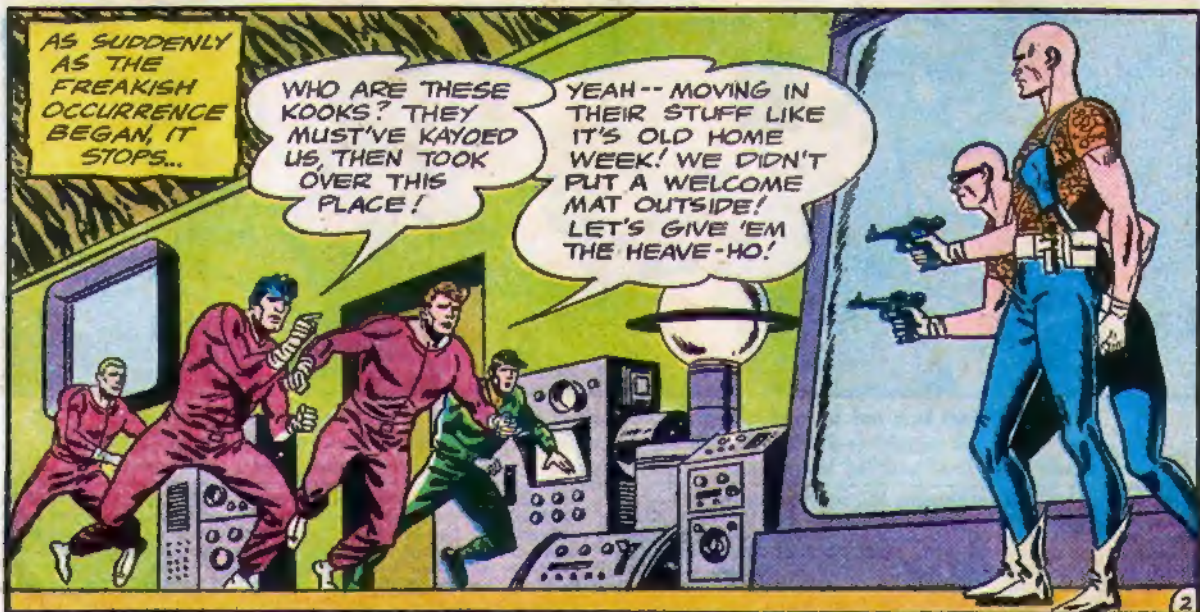
WHAT IN BLAZES IS THAT HUMMING? IT'S GETTIN' LOUDER AN' LOUDER --



HEY--! WE'RE BEGINNING TO GLOW--

I FEEL WEIGHTLESS-- AS IF I WERE IN ORBIT!

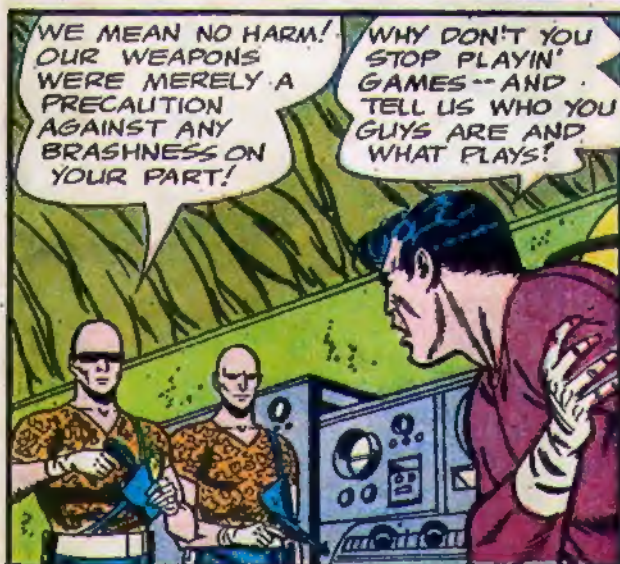
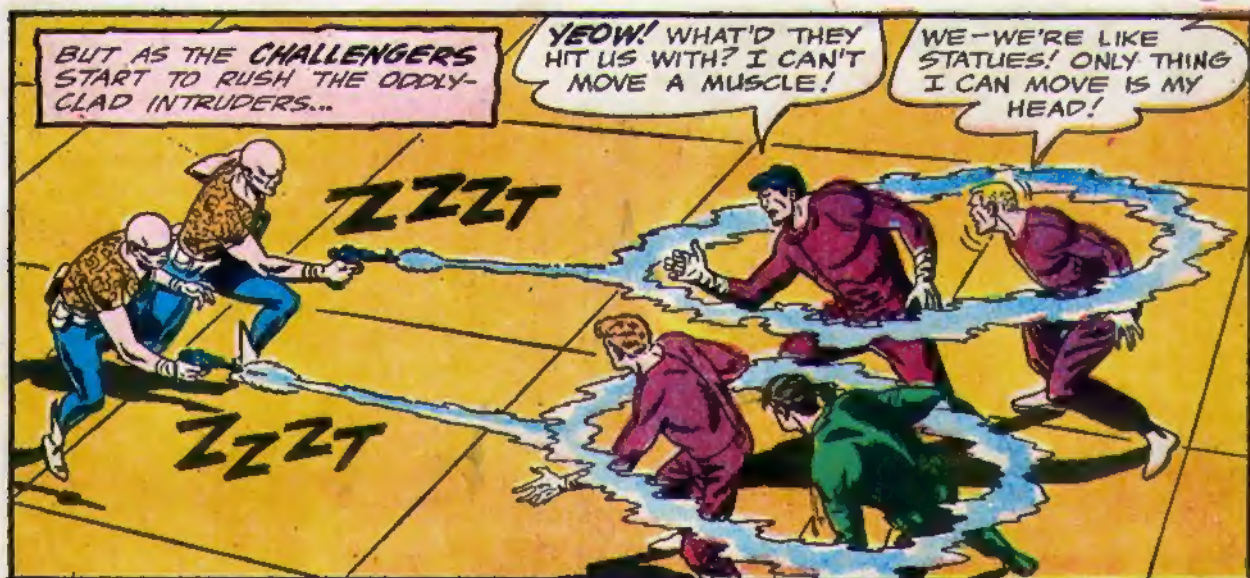
NO PAIN -- JUST DIZZINESS...



AS SUDDENLY AS THE FREAKISH OCCURRENCE BEGAN, IT STOPS...

WHO ARE THESE KOOKS? THEY MUST'VE KAYOED US, THEN TOOK OVER THIS PLACE!

YEAH-- MOVING IN THEIR STUFF LIKE IT'S OLD HOME WEEK! WE DIDN'T PUT A WELCOME MAT OUTSIDE! LET'S GIVE 'EM THE HEAVE-HO!





THERE'S YOUR ANSWER, CHALLENGERS! THAT'S WHY YOU'VE BEEN BROUGHT TO OUR TIME--MONSTRO, RAVAGER OF CITIES!

WOW-EE! WHAT A BRUISER!

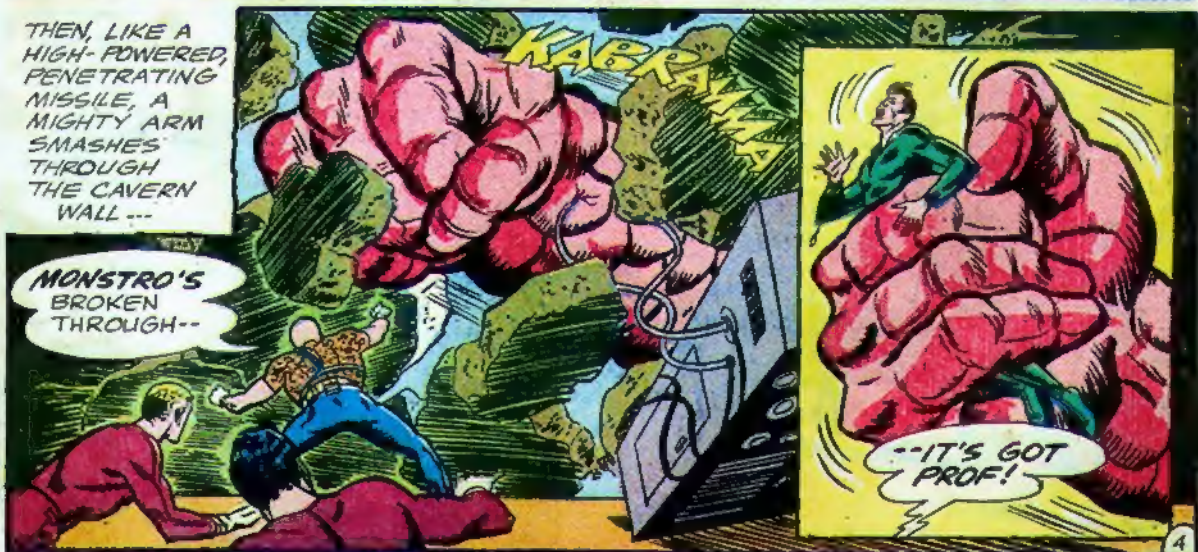


WHAT ARE THOSE LITTLE SHIPS TRYIN' TO DO?

THE AERO-CARS? THEY'RE TRYING TO LURE HIM AWAY FROM THE CITY! THEIR RAY CANNONS DON'T HARM MONSTRO-- ONLY DISTRACT HIM!



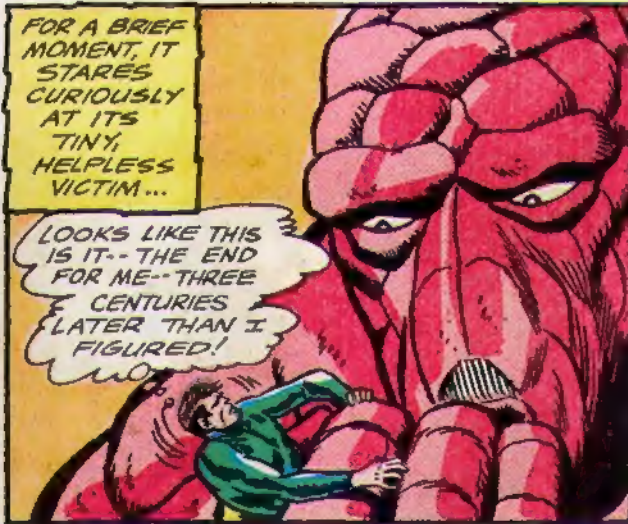
WAIT A MINUTE! IT'S HEADING THIS WAY! IT MIGHT HAVE SENSED OUR PRESENCE HERE!

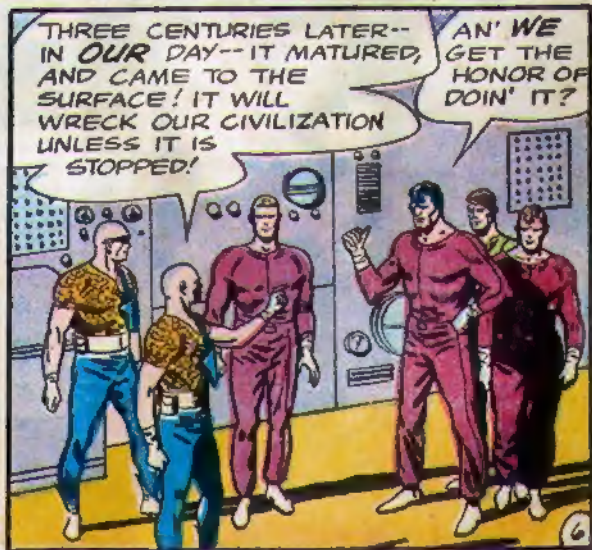


THEN, LIKE A HIGH-POWERED, PENETRATING MISSILE, A MIGHTY ARM SMASHES THROUGH THE CAVERN WALL---

MONSTRO'S BROKEN THROUGH--

--IT'S GOT PROF!





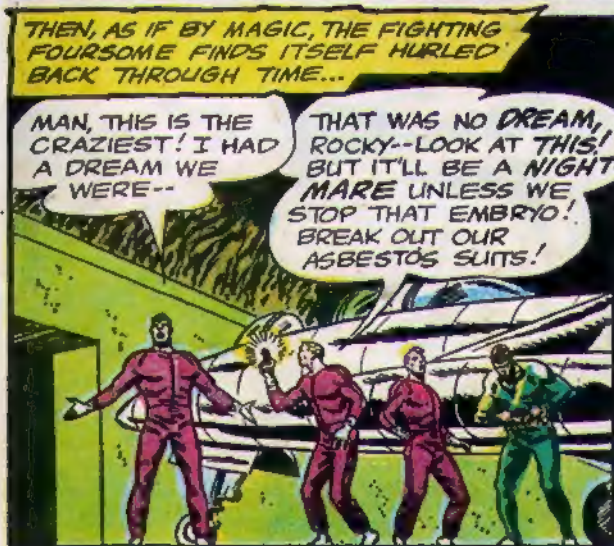


YOU MUST RETURN TO THE YEAR 1965-- FIND THE MISSILE- COCOON-- AND DESTROY IT BEFORE IT CAN MAKE ITS WAY TO EARTH'S CENTER!

BUT WE CAN'T CHANGE WHAT ALREADY HAPPENED -- OR... CAN WE?



WE HOPE TO NOW FOR THE FIRST TIME! TAKE THIS ELECTRONIC DEVICE! SIGNAL US WITH IT WHENEVER YOU WISH TO REAPPEAR HERE!



THEN, AS IF BY MAGIC, THE FIGHTING FOURSOME FINDS ITSELF HURLED BACK THROUGH TIME...

MAN, THIS IS THE CRAZIEST! I HAD A DREAM WE WERE--

THAT WAS NO DREAM, ROCKY-- LOOK AT THIS! BUT IT'LL BE A NIGHTMARE UNLESS WE STOP THAT EMBRYO! BREAK OUT OUR ASBESTOS SUITS!



I DON'T GET THIS TIME ANGLE, PROF! HOW CAN MONSTRO BE HERE NOW-- AS AN EMBRYO-- AND STILL BE IN THE FUTURE AS A FULL-GROWN TROUBLE-MAKER?

SOUNDS LIKE HE'S IN TWO PLACES AT THE SAME TIME, BUT HE ISN'T! YOU'VE GOT TO UNDERSTAND-- THAT FUTURE WORLD ISN'T THERE -- NOT YET...



BUT IT DOES EXIST 300 YEARS FROM NOW! AND IF MONSTRO SURVIVES, HE'LL BE A THREAT IN THAT ERA! WE HAD TO RETURN TO THE PRESENT... TO STOP A MENACE TO THE FUTURE!



STREAKING THROUGH THE SKY, THE CHALLENGERS LAND ON A SPOT WHERE MORE THAN HALF A CENTURY AGO A STRANGE MISSILE ENTERED THE EARTH! THEN...

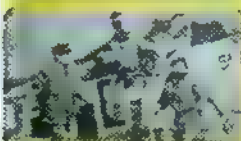
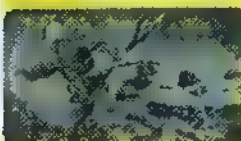
WE'RE JUST IN TIME! THERE'S THE MISSILE- COCOON -- AND IT'S BEGINNING TO VIBRATE! MONSTRO'S ABOUT TO EMERGE! READY YOUR GRENADES!



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This is terrific G. I. Joe, greatest soldier a boy ever owned...you can make him charge in action with his M-1 Rifle and fixed bayonet - make him lean back to throw a grenade - stoop to aim his flame thrower - kneel, sit, crawl - do anything a soldier does in bivouac and battle!

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ACTION PILOT... Scramble! Ready with flight suit... crash helmet... parachute pack and survival kit.

ACTION MARINE... taking beachhead... full field pack with M-1 Rifle, flame thrower, also paratrooper parachute pack.

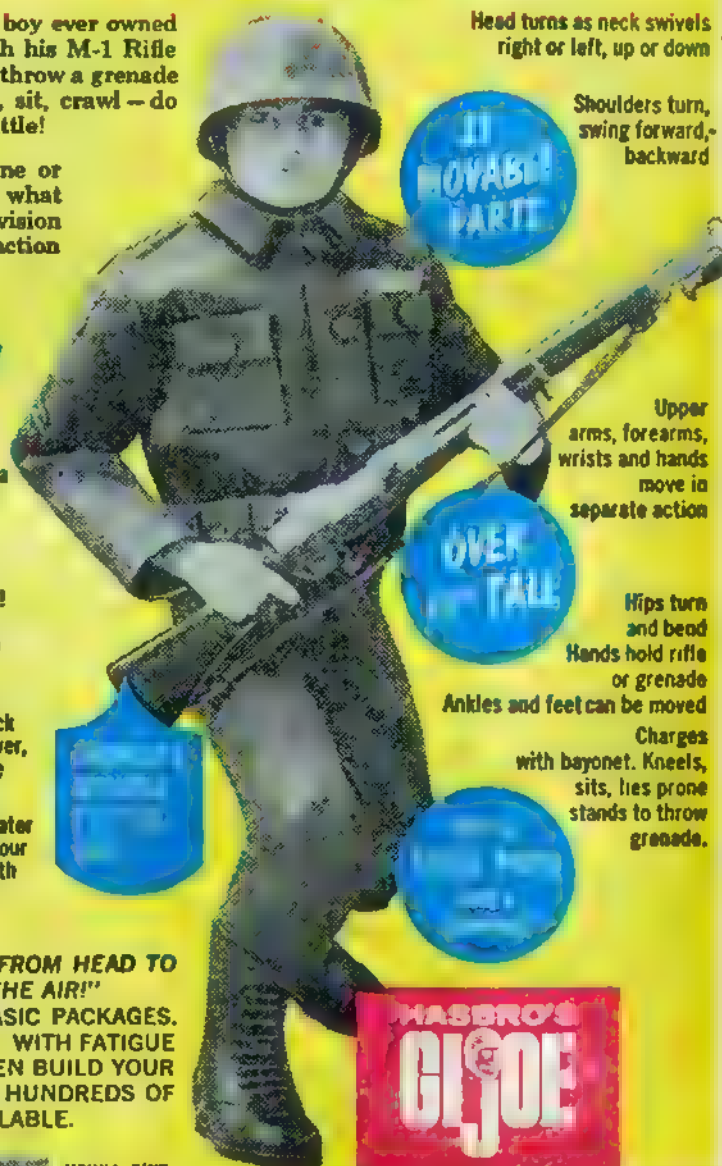
ACTION SAILOR... underwater demolition attack... use your frogman scuba suit... depth gauge... sea rescue set available.

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Head turns as neck swivels right or left, up or down

Shoulders turn, swing forward, backward

MOVABLE PARTS

Upper arms, forearms, wrists and hands move in separate action

OVER THE FALL

Hips turn and bend Hands hold rifle or grenade

Ankles and feet can be moved

Charges with bayonet. Kneels, sits, lies prone stands to throw grenade.



Don't wait... Mail today:

G. I. Joe Division, Hasbro, P.O. Box 1288, Pawtucket, R. I. Please send me G. I. Joe Catalogue of action and equipment pictures with full descriptions on how to build a collection. I enclose 25¢ to cover costs.

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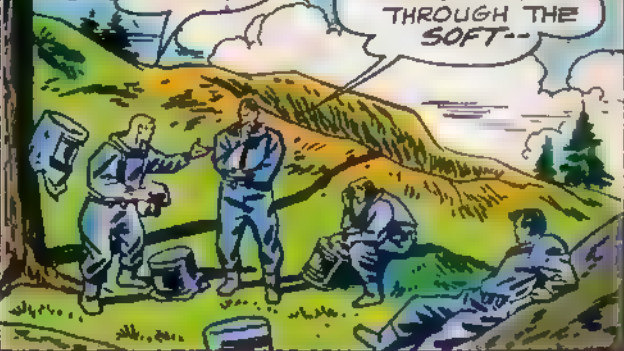


MONSTRO'S BEATEN US! WE'VE GOT TO TURN BACK! IT'S GETTING SO HOT, EVEN OUR ASBESTOS SUITS ARE BEGINNING TO SMOKE!

LATER, AFTER RETREATING TO THE SURFACE...

MONSTRO ZIGZAGGED THROUGH THE GROUND LIKE A TERMITE BORING A TRAIL THROUGH HARDWOOD! HOW COME, PROF?

A TERMITE LEAVES A TWISTED TRAIL BECAUSE IT AVOIDS THE HARDWOOD AREAS AND BORES ONLY THROUGH THE SOFT--

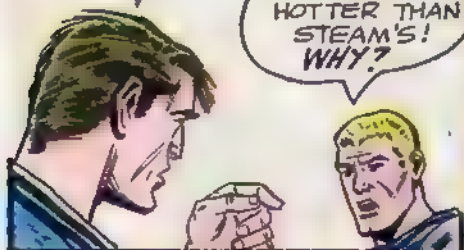


MONSTRO WENT THROUGH BOTH HARD AND SOFT AREAS-- AND AVOIDED ONLY THE PLACES WHERE THERE WERE STEAM POCKETS!

IT CERTAINLY COULDN'T BE THE HEAT OF THE STEAM THAT SCARED HIM OFF-- BECAUSE HE WENT TO DEPTHS WHERE THE TEMPERATURE IS VASTLY HOTTER THAN STEAM'S! WHY?

YES WHY? AND WHY DID MONSTRO DROP ME LIKE A HOT POTATO? PALS, I THINK I'VE GOT THE ANSWER! LET'S MAKE FOR HOME! I'VE GOT TO PICK UP SOMETHING!

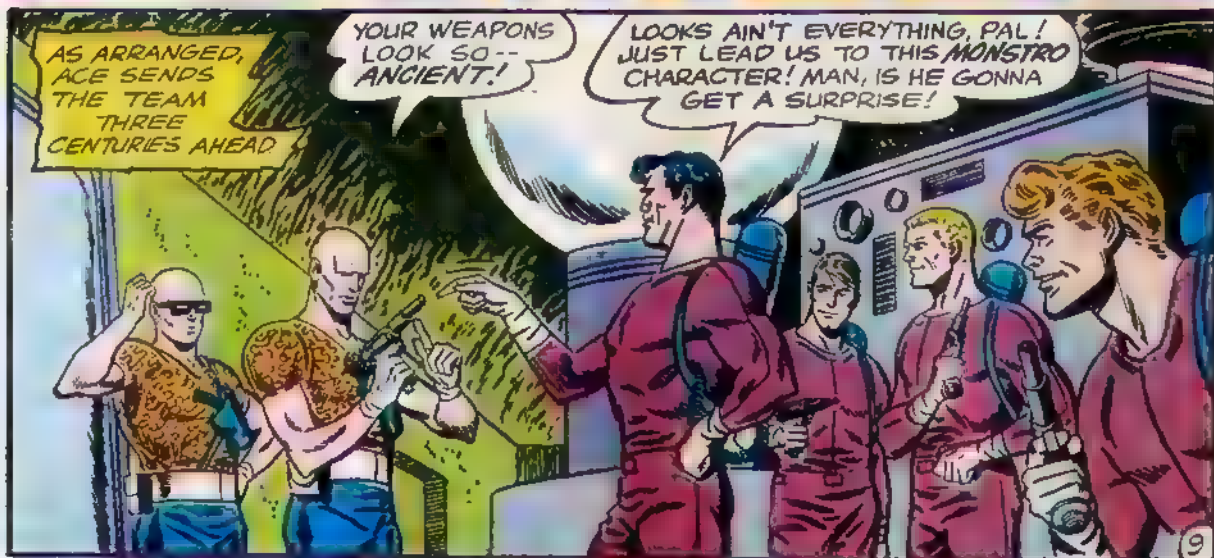
IT BETTER BE A GOOD ANSWER, CHUM--OR MONSTRO'S HEADED TO BLAST THE FUTURE! I GOTTA PROTECT THE FAMILY I'LL HAVE SOMEDAY!

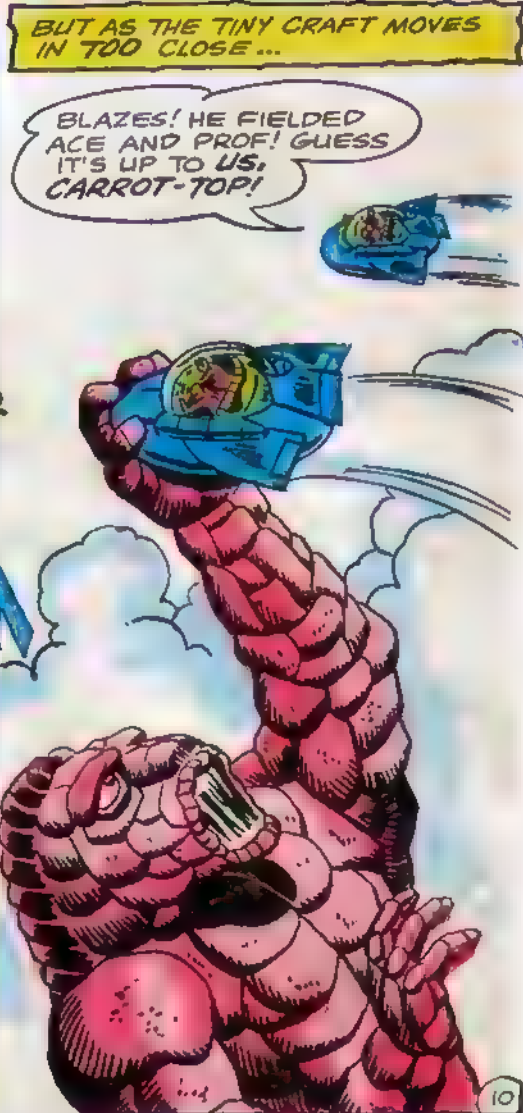
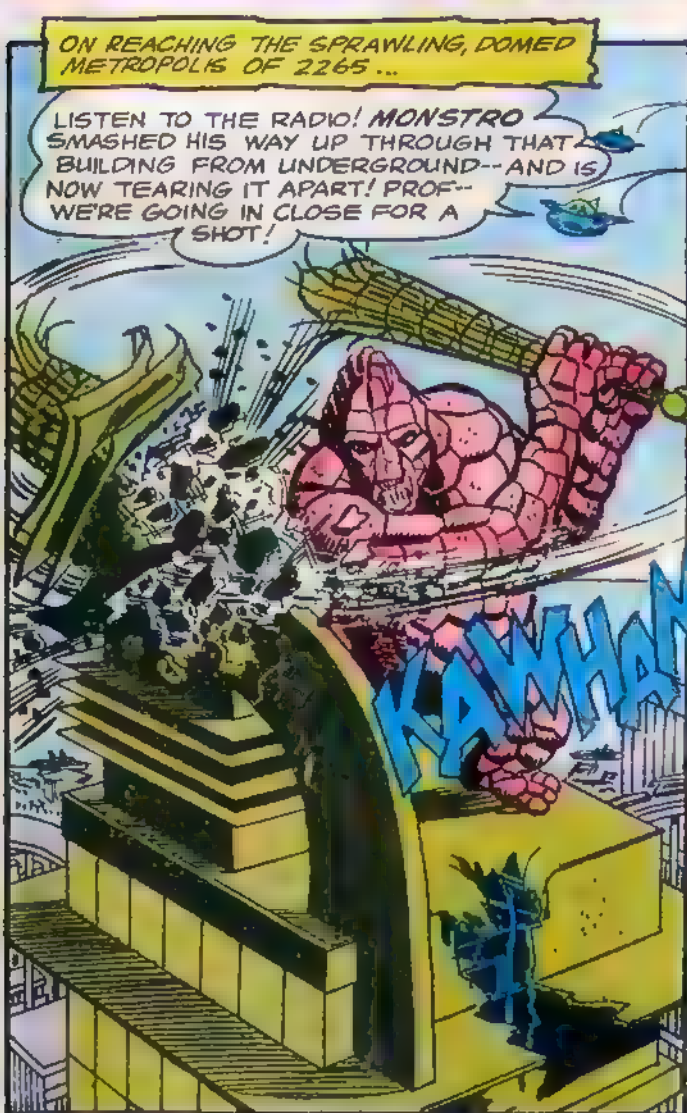
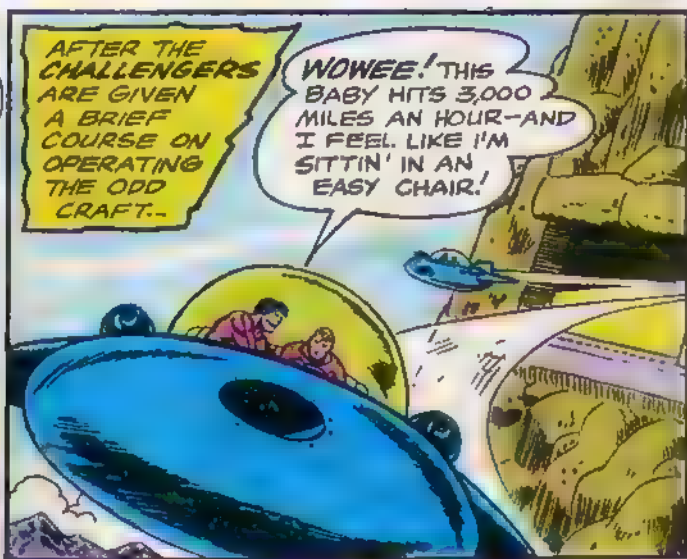
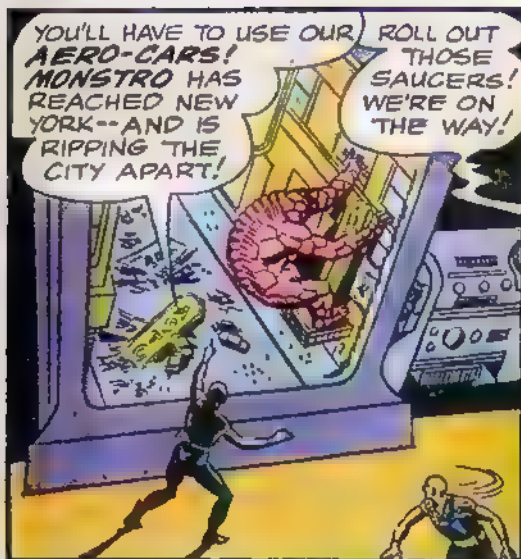


AS ARRANGED, ACE SENDS THE TEAM THREE CENTURIES AHEAD

YOUR WEAPONS LOOK SO-- ANCIENT!

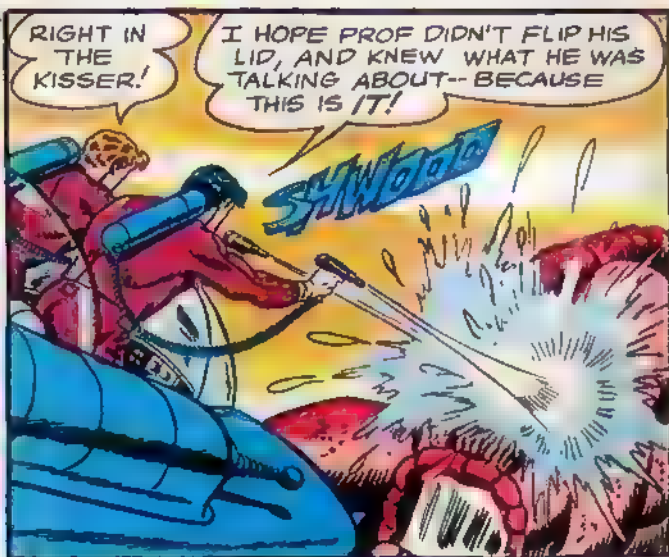
LOOKS AIN'T EVERYTHING, PAL! JUST LEAD US TO THIS MONSTRO CHARACTER! MAN, IS HE GONNA GET A SURPRISE!





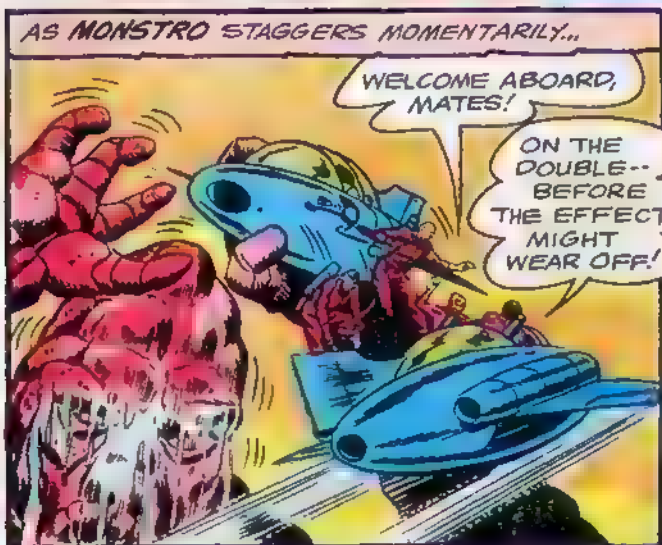


READY YOUR GUN!
WE GET ABOUT **ONE**
SHOT-- THAT'S
ALL



RIGHT IN
THE
KISSER!

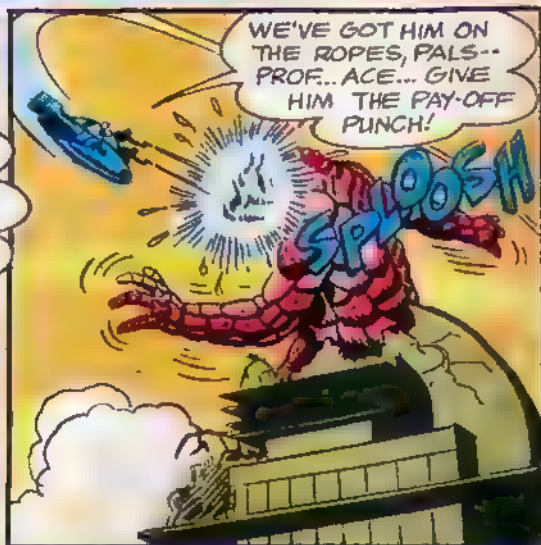
I HOPE PROF DIDN'T FLIP HIS
LID, AND KNEW WHAT HE WAS
TALKING ABOUT-- BECAUSE
THIS IS **IT!**



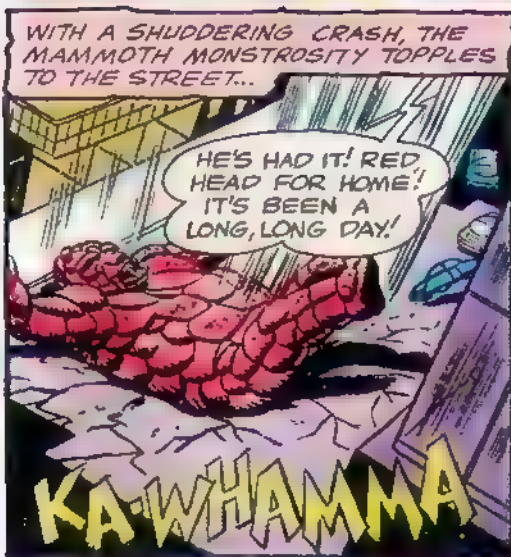
AS **MONSTRO** STAGGERS MOMENTARILY...

WELCOME ABOARD,
MATES!

ON THE
DOUBLE--
BEFORE
THE EFFECT
MIGHT
WEAR OFF!



WE'VE GOT HIM ON
THE ROPES, FALS--
PROF... ACE... GIVE
HIM THE PAY-OFF
PUNCH!



WITH A SHUDDERING CRASH, THE
MAMMOTH MONSTROSITY TOPPLES
TO THE STREET...

HE'S HAD IT! RED
HEAD FOR HOME!
IT'S BEEN A
LONG, LONG DAY!

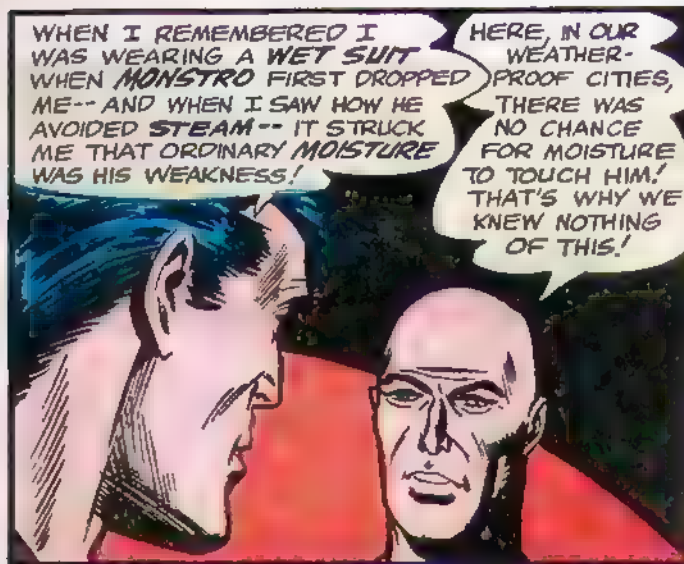


LATER, BACK AT CHALLENGER MOUNTAIN...

BUT WHAT AMAZING
WEAPONS ARE THESE?
WHAT DEADLY
AMMUNITION DID
YOU USE?

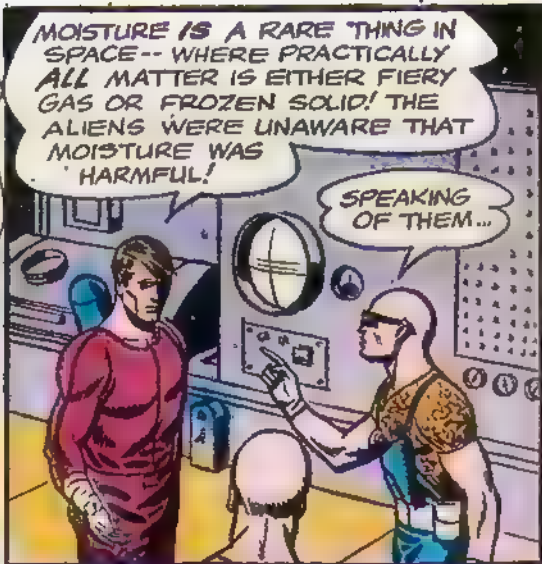
WATER--PLAIN
WATER!





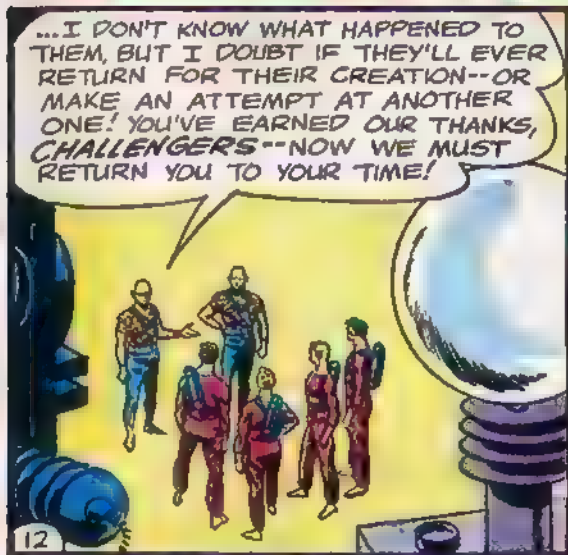
WHEN I REMEMBERED I WAS WEARING A **WET SUIT** WHEN **MONSTRO** FIRST DROPPED ME-- AND WHEN I SAW HOW HE AVOIDED **STEAM**-- IT STRUCK ME THAT ORDINARY **MOISTURE** WAS HIS WEAKNESS!

HERE, IN OUR WEATHER-PROOF CITIES, THERE WAS NO CHANCE FOR **MOISTURE** TO TOUCH HIM! THAT'S WHY WE KNEW NOTHING OF THIS!

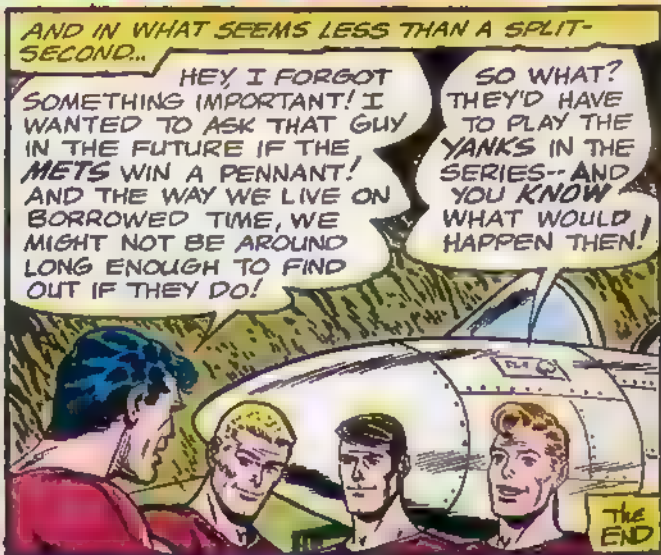


MOISTURE IS A RARE THING IN SPACE-- WHERE PRACTICALLY ALL MATTER IS EITHER FIERY GAS OR FROZEN SOLID! THE ALIENS WERE UNAWARE THAT **MOISTURE WAS HARMFUL!**

SPEAKING OF THEM...



...I DON'T KNOW WHAT HAPPENED TO THEM, BUT I DOUBT IF THEY'LL EVER RETURN FOR THEIR CREATION--OR MAKE AN ATTEMPT AT ANOTHER ONE! YOU'VE EARNED OUR THANKS, **CHALLENGERS**--NOW WE MUST RETURN YOU TO YOUR TIME!



AND IN WHAT SEEMS LESS THAN A **SPLIT-SECOND**...

HEY, I FORGOT SOMETHING IMPORTANT! I WANTED TO ASK THAT GUY IN THE FUTURE IF THE **METS** WIN A PENNANT! AND THE WAY WE LIVE ON BORROWED TIME, WE MIGHT NOT BE AROUND LONG ENOUGH TO FIND OUT IF THEY DO!

SO WHAT? THEY'D HAVE TO PLAY THE **YANKS** IN THE SERIES--AND YOU KNOW WHAT WOULD HAPPEN THEN!

THE END

when it's snowy cold or muddy-- it's time for **FUN** with **Silly Putty**!

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CHALLENGERS' MAIL CHUTE



Dear Editor: Here's my vote for my favorite Challenger! It goes for Prof, and this is why:

Prudent
Ready
Outstanding
Fantastic.

I enjoyed Issue No. 40, especially the diagram. Keep up the good work! —George Barbera, Albuquerque, N.M.

Ed. Note: Come on, all you readers out there in fan-land! Let's know who your favorite hero is: Rocky, Ace, Prof or Red!

* * *

Letters we like to get and never tire of printing:

Dear Editor: I love your comics and wish I had every issue of them. I also wish it were possible to add back issues of CHALLENGERS OF THE UNKNOWN to your subscription. I'm sure there are many fans who would like the idea, especially those who have just begun to read this marvelous magazine. Anyway, I want to congratulate you on the fine job of writing and illustrating CHALLENGERS, and hope you continue! —Charles W. Bolden, Jr., Detroit, Mich.

* * *

Dear Editor: Because of the interest generated by the Chemical Chameleon in the recent story, "The Return of the Challenger Kids," I thought these statistics would interest all who read that issue. I call this "The Chemistry of Man." A man who weighs 140 pounds contains enough carbon for 9,000 pencils, phosphorous to make 2,200 match heads, fat for seven cakes of soap, magnesium for one tablespoonful of salt, iron to make one medium-sized nail, enough lime to whitewash a wall 8 by 10 feet, water to fill a 10-gallon barrel, and a handful of sulphur. —Daisy Schorr, Chicago, Ill.

Ed. Note: What, no nerves of steel? Thanks, Daisy, for an enlightening and entertaining analysis.

* * *

CHIT-CHAT FROM THE MAIL CHUTE: Frank McKisic is forming a Challengers Fan Club and asks those who are interested in joining (membership card, club news bulletin, insignia, etc.) to write him at 3731 N.W. First Street, Miami, Fla. 33134. . . . Suddenly two readers from opposite sides of the country request stories documenting how the Challengers meet their future brides. They are Linda Williams, Manassas, Va., and Monty Lehmann, Barstow, Calif. Seems spring must be in the air! . . . Says Steve Perrin of San Francisco: "The stories are getting into the groove, and the characterization is coming along fine. As for Rocky's excessive use of

slang and reference to the Beatles, a responsible type like Rocky might listen to the Beatles, but I doubt if he'd use them as part of his usual speech. . . . Please let us have more of the weird, semi-supernatural stories."

Congratulations and the best of luck to Jim Rossow, editor and publisher of the comic fanzine Countdown, which he produces in South Bend, Ind. . . . Letters still pouring in, asking for the return of Gaylord Clayburn III, "The Fifth Challenger," and some demanding that he become a permanent member of the team. Among the best comments were those written by Sidney Rowatree, Southport, England; Richard Walls, Des Moines, Ia.; and someone simply called Dianna from Huntsville, Ala. . . . In reply to those like William Cheroch of Marina, Calif., who've suggested we combine our Challengers with another team like the Blackhawks, we doubt whether we'd entertain such an idea at this point because such heroic combinations are offered in Brave and Bold.

Some readers wish Rocky wouldn't hog the whole show. During the past few issues, he was, says Martin Swiatkowski, "carried away by the moon-beast, turned into a giant, then a genius, stuck to a 'walking wad of chewing gum,' and finally he quit the team. Please try to play up some of his pals." Okay, Martin, but that's the way the cookie crumbled. Incidentally, Martin has every issue of CHALLENGERS except No. 3 and is willing to trade. His address: 3854 West 42 St., Cleveland, O. . . . Other letters worthy of mention came from Roy Haws, Jacksonville, Tex.; Leonard Dean Adams, English, W. Va.; Tom Maves, Presho, S.D.; (The Young Challengers) Steve, Lee, David and Robin, Cincinnati; Kenneth Belden, Sylmar, Calif.; Clayton Hurlburt, Jr., Media, Pa.; Brenda Rose Bilyou, of Dunns town, Pa., whose injured arm, we hope, is better now. . . . Susan Combs, DeLand, Fla.; and Jeffrey Gentile, Astabula, O.

Again we ask those fans who wrote, requesting photos of the Challengers, to be patient. Artist Bob Brown is preparing an original drawing depicting our boys in their new uniforms, and as soon as the pictures roll off the presses, copies will be sent to you. . . . **IN THE MEANTIME, HAVE YOU DONE YOURSELF A FAVOR BY TAKING ADVANTAGE OF OUR GIANT SUBSCRIPTION OFFER? THE DETAILS ARE PUBLISHED ON A PAGE ELSEWHERE IN THIS MAGAZINE!**

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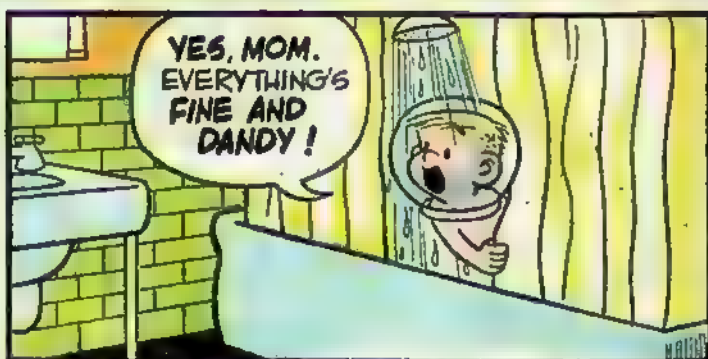
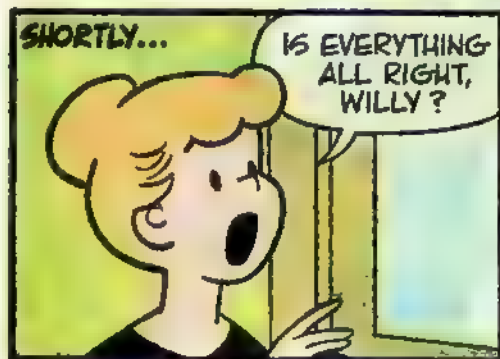
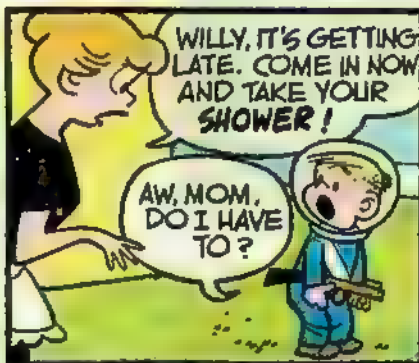
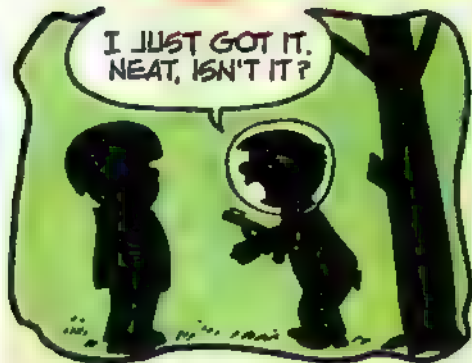
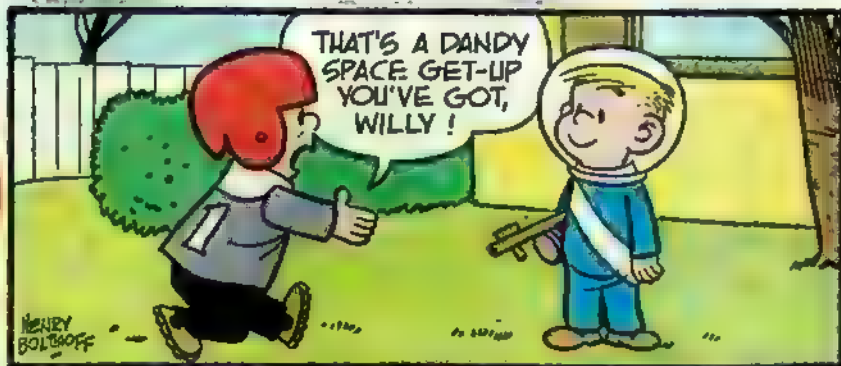
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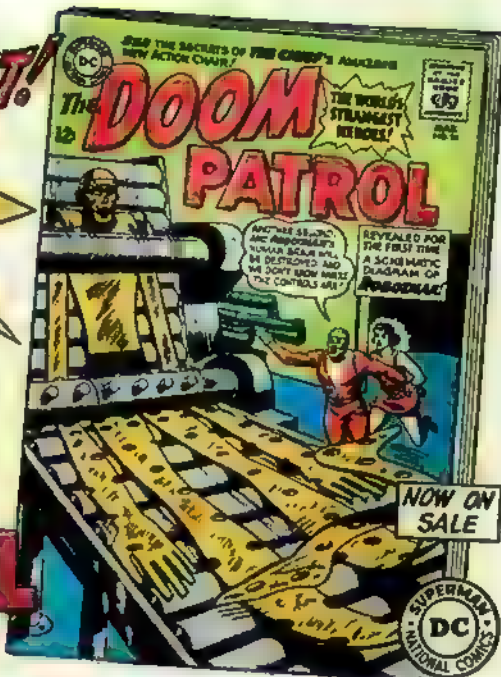
They were

THE WORLD'S STRANGEST HEROES!

- ✓ A GIRL WHO COULD SHRINK TO A FRACTION OF AN INCH OR GROW TO 60 FEET...
- ✓ A MAN WHO HID HIS RADIOACTIVE POWERS BEHIND SPECIAL BANDAGES...
- ✓ A ROBOT WITH A HUMAN BRAIN...
- ✓ LED BY AN INVALID WHO HAD THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE WORLD AT HIS FINGERTIPS...

Together they formed

The DOOM PATROL
to fight evil in all its forms!





CHALLENGERS OF THE UNKNOWN

OH, NO! THE MUTANT-MAKING
MACHINE CHANGED PROF INTO
AN EVIL-ENERGY-GHOST!
HE WANTS TO DESTROY US!

UH-HHH!
I--I--
CAN'T
BREATHE!

SOMEWHERE IN UNCHARTED WATERS IS AN ISLE POPULATED BY "PHANTOMS"! HERE, CREATURES AND BEINGS WHO CHEATED DEATH, NOW THREATEN FOUR GALLANT MEN WHO ALSO LIVE ON BORROWED TIME! HERE, THE FAMED CHALLENGERS FIND NEW DANGERS, AS WELL AS NEW COSTUMES, WHEN THEY DARE TO DEFEY THE "GHOSTS" OF...

THE HAUNTED ISLAND

IN THE EGYPTIAN WING OF A MUSEUM, FOUR MEN WHO LIVE ON BORROWED TIME,* WAIT FOR THE UNKNOWN TO HAPPEN...



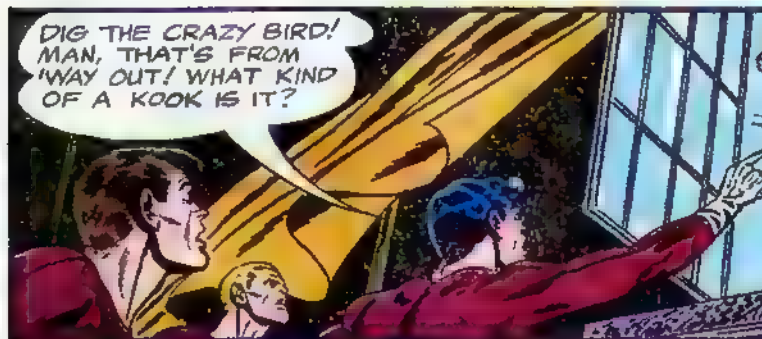
THERE IT IS-- THE MUMMY OF AN ANCIENT PHARAOH! FOR CENTURIES IT WAS ENTOMBED-- UNTIL IT WAS UNEARTHED A FEW WEEKS AGO!

AND NOW SOMEONE WANTS TO STEAL IT-- ACCORDING TO THE ANONYMOUS MESSAGE THAT WAS LEFT FOR US!

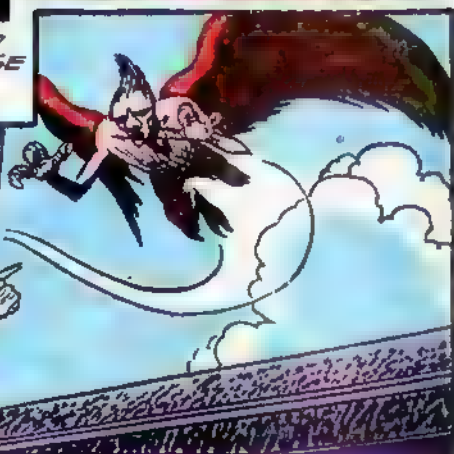
IT JUST DOESN'T ADD UP! THE ONLY VALUE THE SARCOPHAGUS HAS IS HISTORICAL! SO WHY WOULD ANYONE WANT TO BOTHER STEALING IT?

HEY--YOU GUYS HEAR SOMETHIN'? IT SOUNDS LIKE WINGS!

*ED. NOTE: IN SURVIVING A PLANE CRASH WHICH SHOULD HAVE BEEN FATAL, THE TEAM ADOPTED THE PHRASE "LIVING ON BORROWED TIME"...



DIG THE CRAZY BIRD! MAN, THAT'S FROM WAY OUT! WHAT KIND OF A KOOK IS IT?



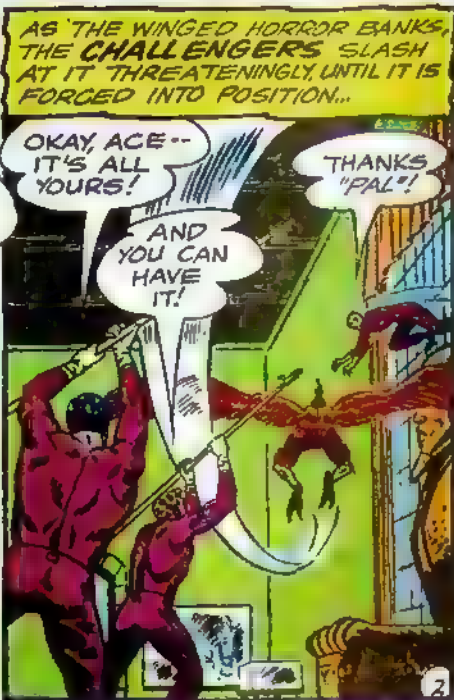
IT'S NO TURTLEDOVE, THAT'S FOR SURE!

WOW! THAT THING COULD USE A MANICURE!



GRAB SOME WINDOW POLES! DRIVE IT THIS WAY!

I HOPE YOU KNOW WHAT YOU'RE DOING-- BECAUSE WE DON'T!

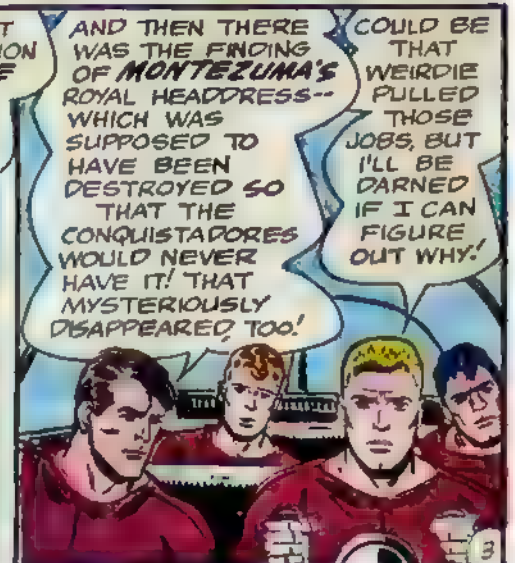
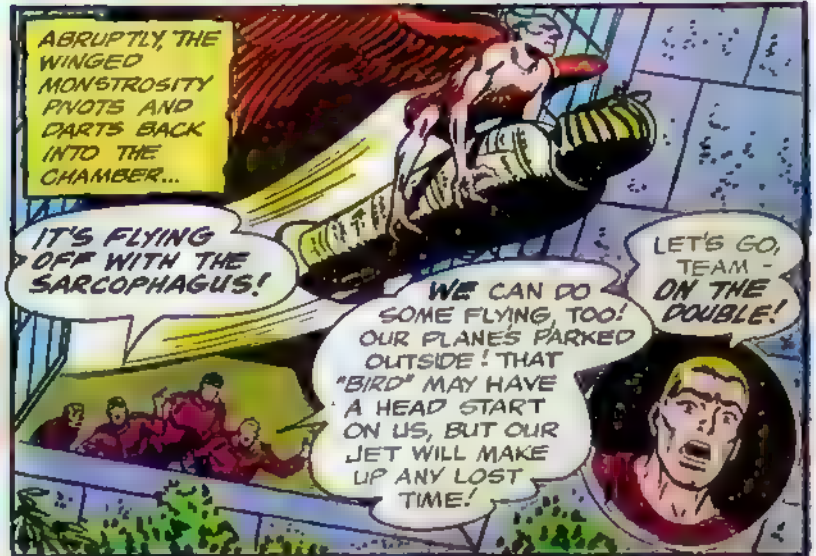
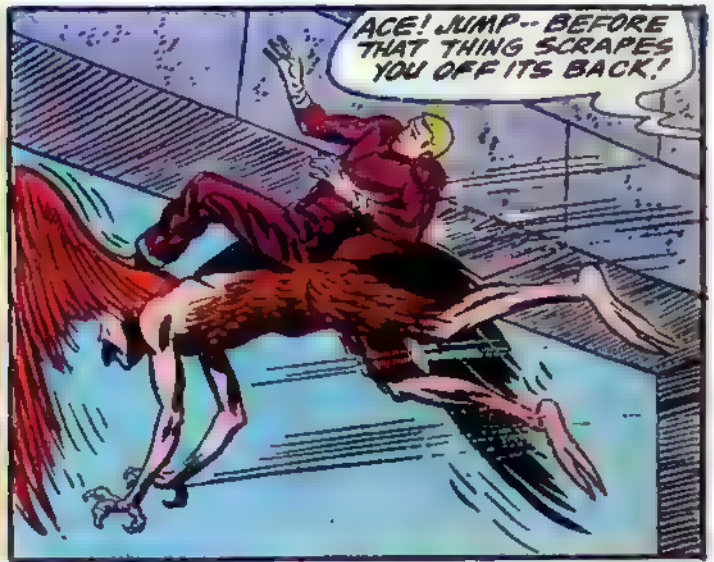


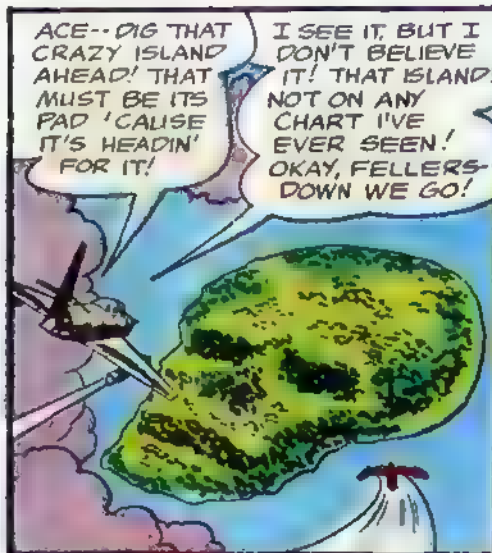
AS THE WINGED HORROR BANKS, THE CHALLENGERS SLASH AT IT THREATENINGLY, UNTIL IT IS FORCED INTO POSITION...

OKAY, ACE-- IT'S ALL YOURS!

THANKS "PAL"!

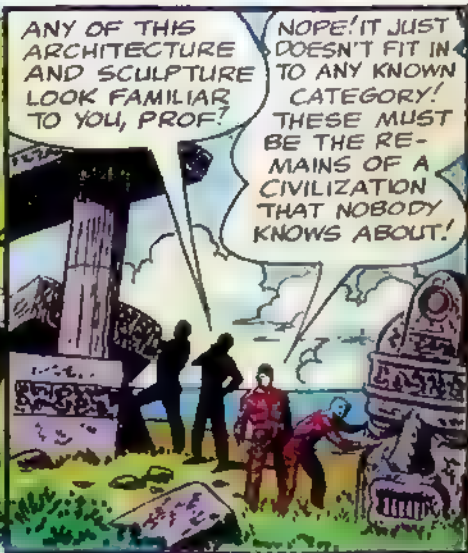
AND YOU CAN HAVE IT!





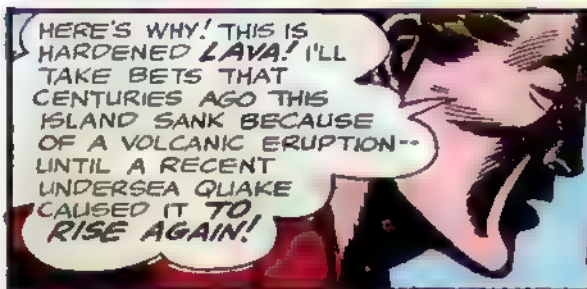
ACE-- DIG THAT CRAZY ISLAND AHEAD! THAT MUST BE ITS PAD 'CAUSE IT'S HEADIN' FOR IT!

I SEE IT, BUT I DON'T BELIEVE IT! THAT ISLAND'S NOT ON ANY CHART I'VE EVER SEEN! OKAY, FELLERS-- DOWN WE GO!



ANY OF THIS ARCHITECTURE AND SCULPTURE LOOK FAMILIAR TO YOU, PROF?

NOPE! IT JUST DOESN'T FIT IN TO ANY KNOWN CATEGORY! THESE MUST BE THE REMAINS OF A CIVILIZATION THAT NOBODY KNOWS ABOUT!



HERE'S WHY! THIS IS HARDENED LAVA! I'LL TAKE BETS THAT CENTURIES AGO THIS ISLAND SANK BECAUSE OF A VOLCANIC ERUPTION-- UNTIL A RECENT UNDERSEA QUAKE CAUSED IT TO RISE AGAIN!



A "DEAD" ISLAND THAT ROSE FROM ITS WATERY "GRAVE!"

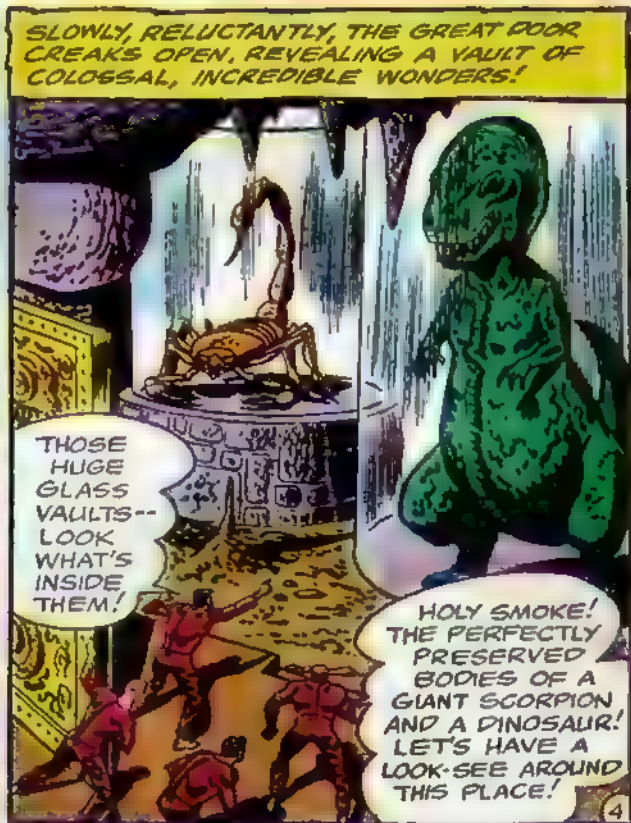


MAYBE WE'LL FIND SOME ANSWERS TO THIS MYSTERY BEHIND THAT!

'WHEW! KNOCKIN' ON A DOOR THAT BIG WOULD BRUISE A LOT OF KNUCKLES!



WHO'S GONNA BOTHER BOTHER KNOCKING? PUSH-- YOU LUGS-- PUSH!



SLOWLY, RELUCTANTLY, THE GREAT DOOR CREAKS OPEN, REVEALING A VAULT OF COLOSSAL, INCREDIBLE WONDERS!

THOSE HUGE GLASS VAULTS-- LOOK WHAT'S INSIDE THEM!

HOLY SMOKE! THE PERFECTLY PRESERVED BODIES OF A GIANT SCORPION AND A DINOSAUR! LET'S HAVE A LOOK-SEE AROUND THIS PLACE!

HEY-- THERE'S THE SARCOPHAGUS--

--AND MONTEZUMA'S HEADRESS-- AND THE DODO BIRD! DO YOU GUYS REALIZE THIS IS A COLLECTION OF THINGS THAT ARE EXTINCT... DEAD?

THEY MAY BE EXTINCT-- BUT THEY SURE AREN'T DEAD!

TH-THEY'RE MOVING! THEY'RE ALIVE!

LOOKS LIKE WE'RE BACK IN BUSINESS, BOYS! YOU WANNA TAKE 'EM ON OR CUT OUT O' HERE?

HOLD IT, ROCKY! SOMEHOW... I GET THE FEELING... SOMETHING ELSE IS ALIVE... IN THIS PLACE...

AND IT'S... RIGHT BEHIND US!

POW

WHAT...?

YOW!

UGH!

EVEN IF HE STARTS TO SING, I STILL AIN'T GONNA BELIEVE HE'S A BEATLE!

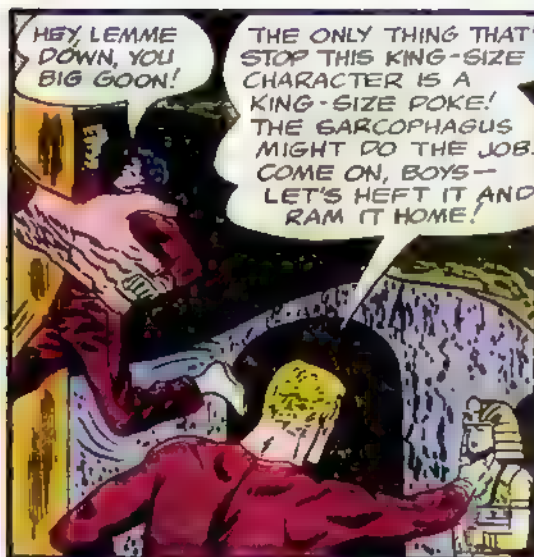
YEAH-YEAH!

WOW! HE'S A BIG ONE, ISN'T HE?

MAYBE WE CAN CUT HIM DOWN TO SIZE!

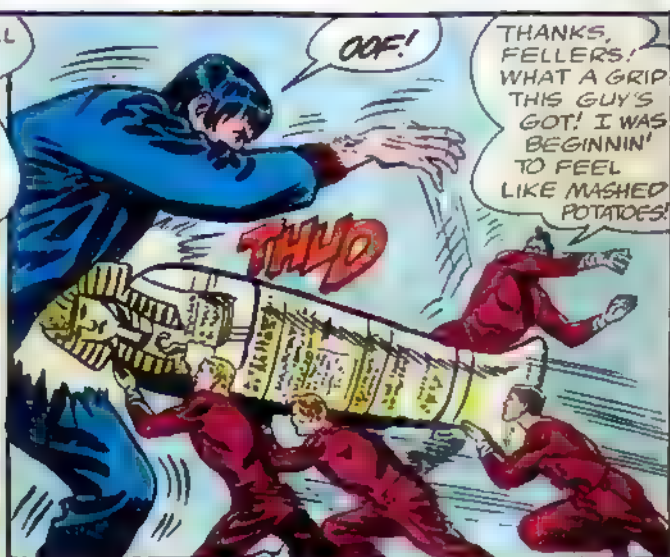
NOW THAT I PUT ON MY ELEVATOR SHOES--! HUH? NOTHIN'! IT'S LIKE HITTIN' A STONE WALL!

YOU CAN SAY THAT AGAIN!



HEY, LEMME DOWN, YOU BIG GOON!

THE ONLY THING THAT'LL STOP THIS KING-SIZE CHARACTER IS A KING-SIZE POKE! THE SARCOPHAGUS MIGHT DO THE JOB! COME ON, BOYS—LET'S HEFT IT AND RAM IT HOME!



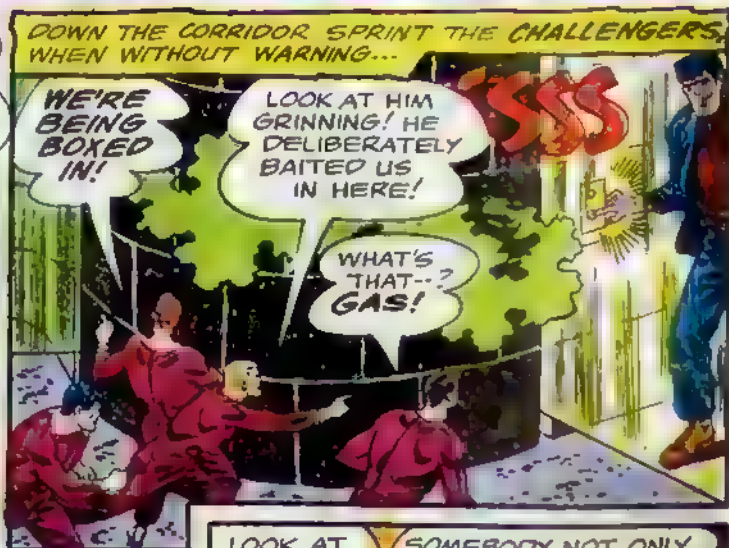
OOF!

THANKS, FELLERS! WHAT A GRIP THIS GUY'S GOT! I WAS BEGINNIN' TO FEEL LIKE MASHED POTATOES!



WHADDYA KNOW! HE'S TURNED CHICKEN!

WHAT'RE WE STANDING AROUND FOR? HE MIGHT LEAD US TO WHOEVER'S BEHIND THIS NIGHTMARE!



DOWN THE CORRIDOR SPRINT THE CHALLENGERS, WHEN WITHOUT WARNING...

WE'RE BEING BOXED IN!

LOOK AT HIM GRINNING! HE DELIBERATELY BAITED US IN HERE!

WHAT'S THAT--? GAS!



IN MOMENTS, THE GAS TAKES ITS TOLL AS THE CHALLENGERS SLIP INTO UNCONSCIOUSNESS...

SSSSSSSS



LOOK AT THE NEW DUDS WE'RE WEARIN'!

SOMEBODY NOT ONLY PUT US IN A NEW ROOM -- BUT ALSO PUT US IN NEW COSTUMES! WHAT NEXT, I WONDER?



...UNTIL LATER, WHEN THEY RECOVER...

A--A SPOTLIGHT, SHINING DOWN ON US!

AND WE'RE NOT IN THE CORRIDOR ANY MORE!



ABRUPTLY,
MORE
SPOTLIGHTS
FLASH ON,
ILLUMINATING
FIVE
FANTASTIC
FIGURES...

"GULP! THE TWO
WEIRDIES WE
TANGLED WITH
BEFORE-- BUT
THEY'VE GOT
THEIR FRIENDS
WITH 'EM NOW!"

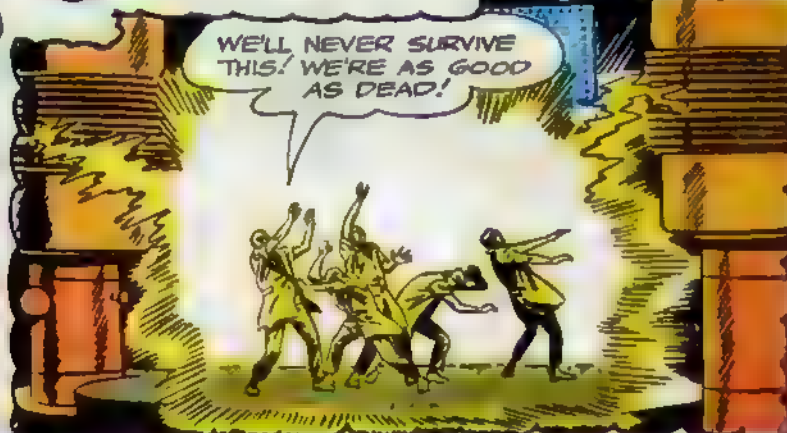
I NEVER SAW
SUCH A BUNCH
OF ODDBALLS!
WHO ARE
THEY?



ONCE WE WERE HUMANS--
LIKE YOU! WE WERE
SCIENTISTS, WORKING ON
A SECRET PROJECT
DEALING WITH A NEW
TYPE OF ATOMIC RADIATION...



"WHILE WORKING IN THE TRANSFORMER
CHAMBER ONE DAY, AN ACCIDENT OCCURRED,
SUBJECTING US TO VARYING DEGREES OF
ATOMIC RADIATION..."



WE'LL NEVER SURVIVE
THIS! WE'RE AS GOOD
AS DEAD!



"BUT WE DID NOT DIE! INSTEAD,
THE NEW TYPE OF RADIATION
TURNED US INTO MUTANTS!"

WE'VE NO RIGHT
TO BE LIVING--
NOT EVEN IN
OUR PRESENT
FORMS!

THERE'S NO
PLACE IN THE
NORMAL
WORLD FOR US--
SO WE MUST
MAKE OUR OWN
WORLD--A WORLD
FOR OUR
KIND!

"WE SEARCHED, AND FOUND
THIS ONCE-BURIED ISLAND
LIVING AGAIN-- A FITTING
HOME FOR OUR KIND! WE
ALSO FOUND ANOTHER
SURVIVOR..."

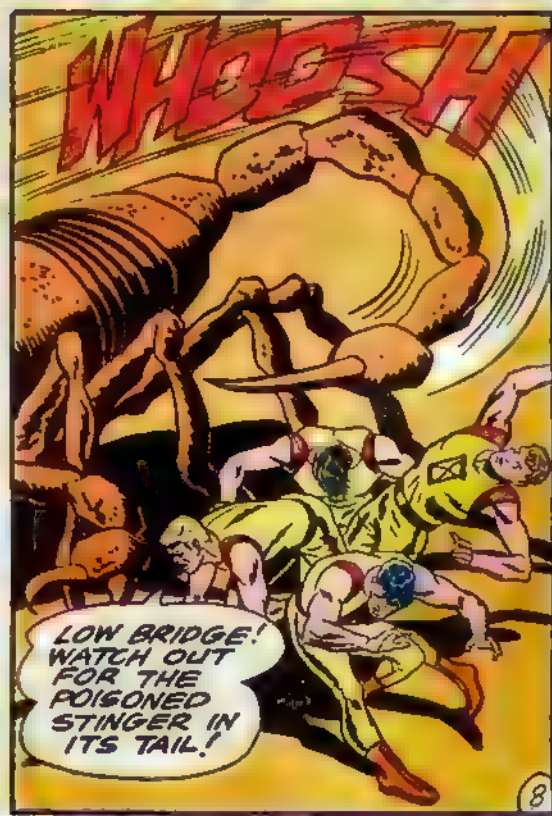
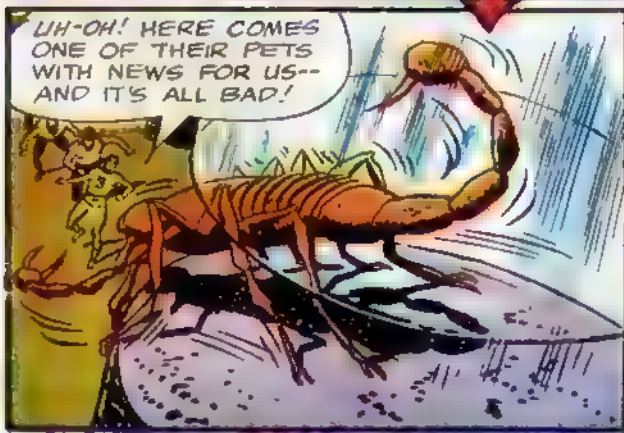
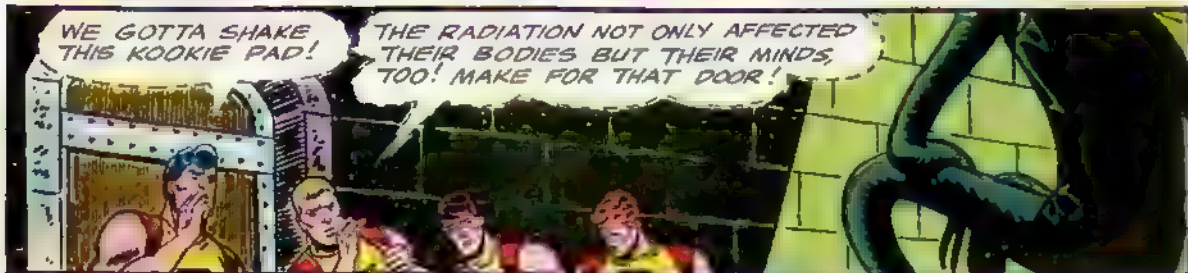
A GIANT SCORPION!
SCIENCE SUSPECTED
HUGE INSECTS
LIVED MILLIONS
OF YEARS AGO--
AND HERE IS
LIVING PROOF!

WE'LL
CAPTURE
IT--START
A COLLECTION
OF THINGS
THAT SHOULD
BE DEAD,
EXTINCT, BUT
SOMEHOW STILL
EXIST... THAT
ARE LIVING ON
BORROWED
TIME LIKE US!

THAT, CHALLENGERS,
IS WHY YOU ARE
HERE! WE LEFT
THE ANONYMOUS
NOTE ALERTING
YOU TO THE
SARCOPHAGUS'
THEFT... TO
LEAD YOU
HERE!



BUT WHY?
WHY US?



DESPERATELY, THE CHALLENGERS SCRAMBLE TO ELUDE THE VENOM OF THE STINGER, BUT AS PROF UNEXPECTEDLY STUMBLES...



LOOK OUT FOR THAT Pincer! PROF--!

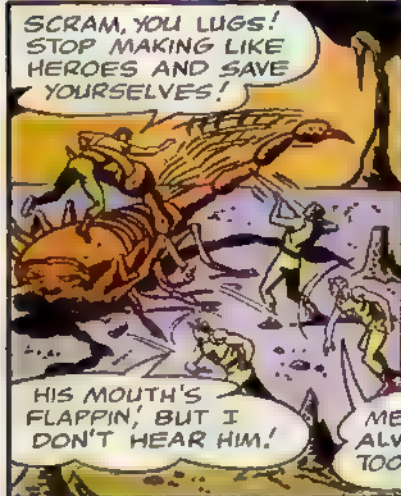


UHH-UH-HH!

THOSE Pincers ARE CRUSHING THE LIFE OUT OF HIM! WE'VE GOT TO DO SOMETHING-- BUT WHAT?

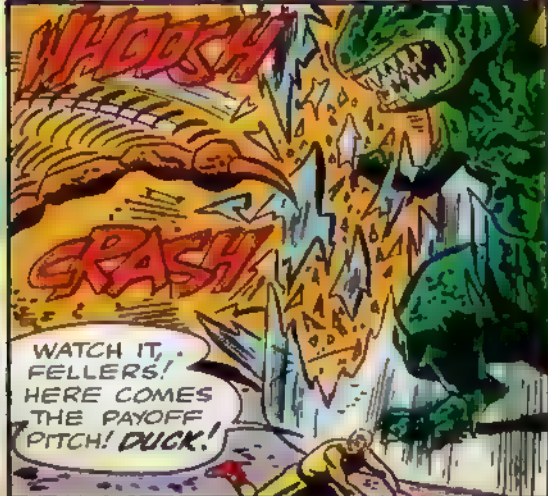
BAIT THAT THING INTO GOING FOR US-- NEAR THE DINOSAUR CASE!

SCRAM, YOU LUGS! STOP MAKING LIKE HEROES AND SAVE YOURSELVES!



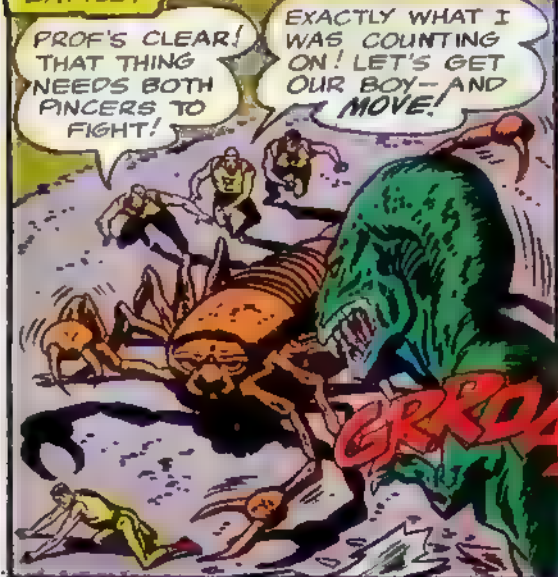
HIS MOUTH'S FLAPPIN', BUT I DON'T HEAR HIM!

ME, NEITHER! HE ALWAYS DID TALK TOO MUCH, ANYWAY!



WATCH IT, FELLERS! HERE COMES THE PAYOFF PITCH! DUCK!

WITH A DEAFENING, DEFIANT BELLOW, TYRANNOSAURUS REX-- KING OF THE DINOSAURS-- EMERGES, HUNGRY FOR BATTLE!



PROF'S CLEAR! THAT THING NEEDS BOTH Pincers TO FIGHT!

EXACTLY WHAT I WAS COUNTING ON! LET'S GET OUR BOY-- AND MOVE!

THE GROUND TREMBLES AS THE MONSTERS FROM THE PREHISTORIC PAST LOCK IN A BATTLE TO THE DEATH...



THAT'S WHAT I CALL A HEAVYWEIGHT BOUT! I'VE GOT TEN BUCKS THAT SAYS OL' REX WINS!

YOU'VE GOT A BET-- BUT I'M NOT WAITING AROUND FOR THE LAST ROUND!



CHALLENGERS OF THE UNKNOWN



ONCE AGAIN, THE CHALLENGERS HAVE WON A GREAT VICTORY--ONLY TO BE CHALLENGED AGAIN!

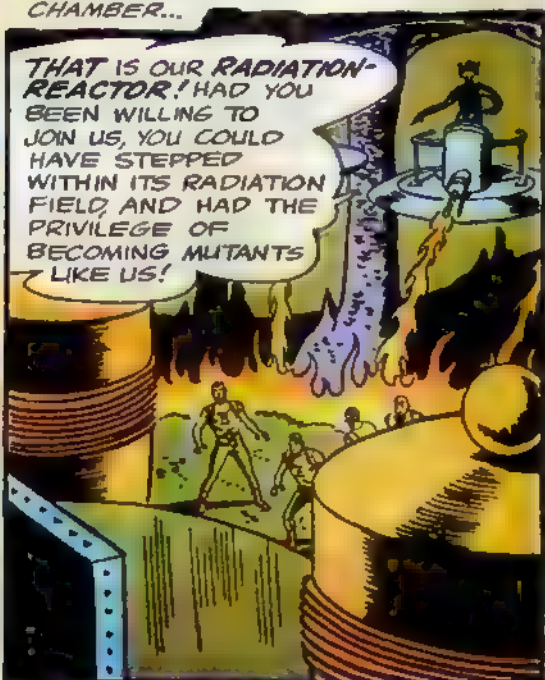
THE MUTANTS--
HEMMING US IN
WITH FIRE!

BACK, YOU FOOLS--
BACK TO WHERE
WE TELL YOU TO GO!



FORCED TO OBEY, THE CHALLENGERS RELUCTANTLY RETREAT TO ANOTHER CHAMBER...

THAT IS OUR RADIATION-
REACTOR! HAD YOU
BEEN WILLING TO
JOIN US, YOU COULD
HAVE STEPPED
WITHIN ITS RADIATION
FIELD, AND HAD THE
PRIVILEGE OF
BECOMING MUTANTS
LIKE US!



BUT BECAUSE YOU CANNOT BE TRUSTED
ANY LONGER, YOU MUST NOW ENTER
THAT CHAMBER, WHERE YOU WILL BE
PUT IN SUSPENDED ANIMATION--
TO JOIN OUR COLLECTION OF
"DEATH-CHEATERS!"



NO--NO! TO BE IN SUSPENDED
ANIMATION... NOT TO SEE OR
HEAR... TO BE AS GOOD AS
DEAD-- PLEASE-- I'LL DO
ANYTHING! EVEN BECOME
A MUTANT!

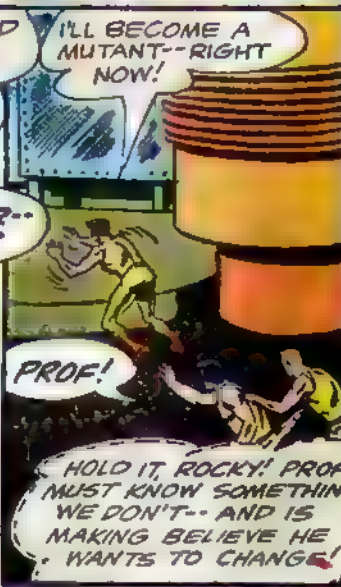
WHAT? A
CHALLENGER--
A COWARD?



I'LL BECOME A
MUTANT--RIGHT
NOW!

PROF!

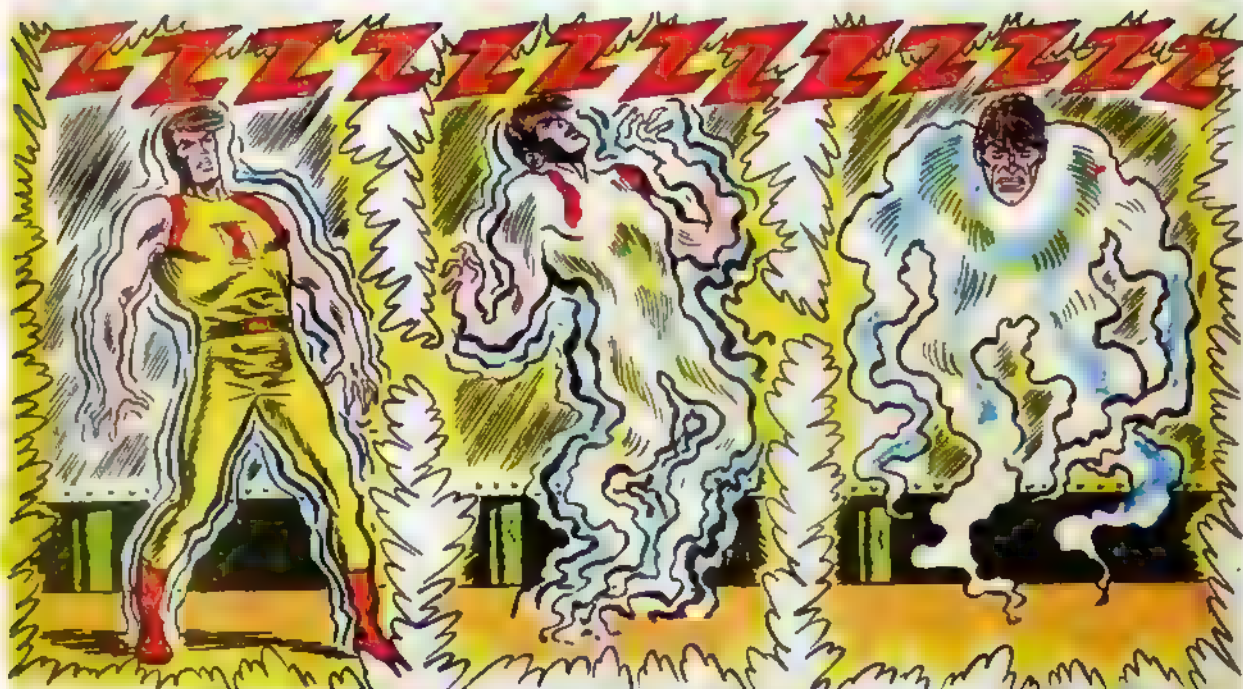
HOLD IT, ROCKY! PROF
MUST KNOW SOMETHING
WE DON'T-- AND IS
MAKING BELIEVE HE
WANTS TO CHANGE!



"MAKING BELIEVE?" NOTHING
COULD BE FURTHER FROM
THE TRUTH...

ONLY BY BECOMING A
MUTANT LIKE THEM CAN
I HELP MY BUDDIES
GET AWAY FROM THIS
PLACE!





ABRUPTLY, THE THING THAT WAS ONCE PROF. LAUGHS INSANELY-- AND ATTACKS THE VERY MEN HE HAD TRIED TO SAVE!

THE RADIATION CHANGES A BEING INTO A DIFFERENT TYPE OF MUTANT EACH TIME! THE CHALLENGER IS A CREATURE OF ENERGY!

LOOK OUT! PROF'S TURNING ON US!

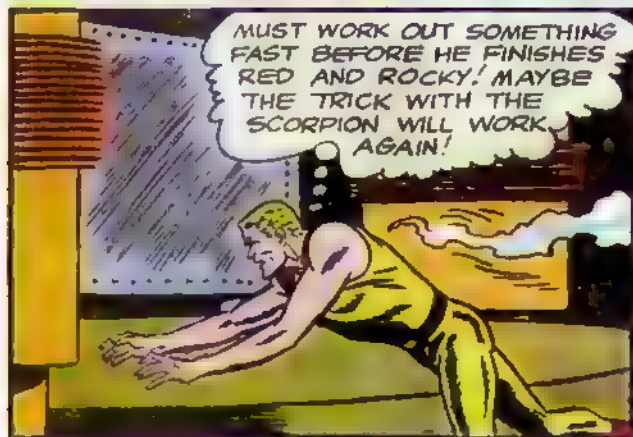


THE RADIATION NOT ONLY CHANGED HIS BODY-- BUT ALSO HIS MIND! PROF DIDN'T FIGURE ON THAT!

UH--HHHH! I-- CAN'T BREATHE!

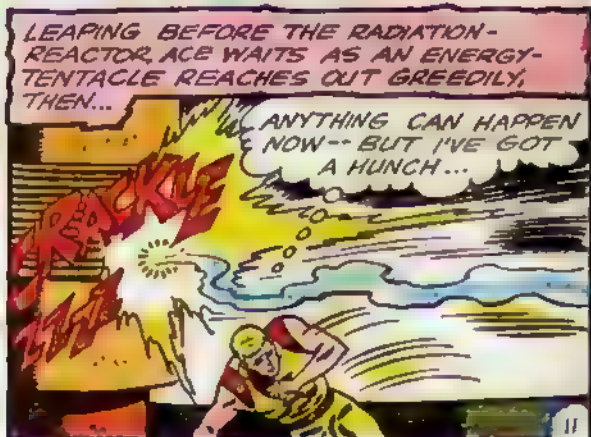


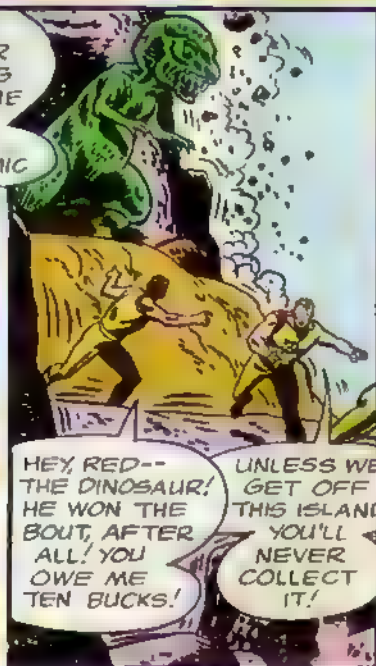
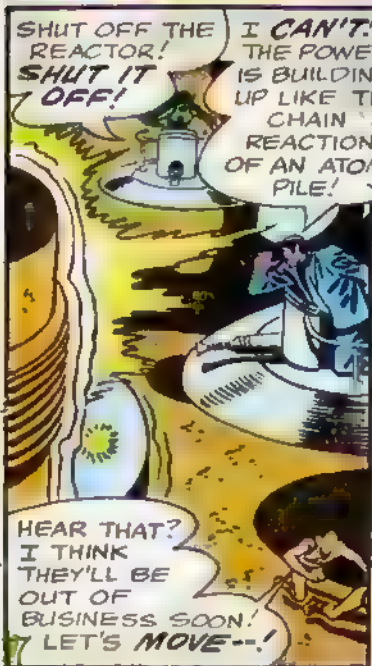
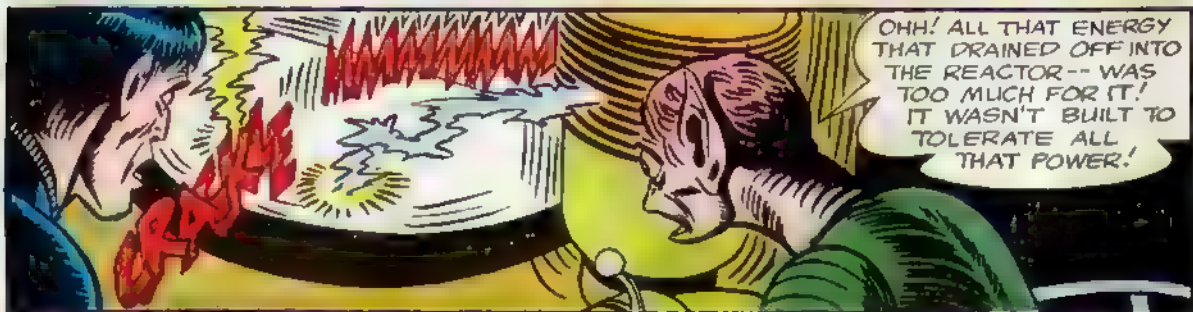
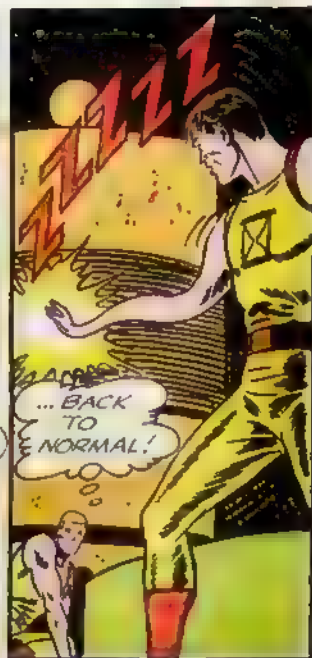
MUST WORK OUT SOMETHING FAST BEFORE HE FINISHES RED AND ROCKY! MAYBE THE TRICK WITH THE SCORPION WILL WORK AGAIN!



LEAPING BEFORE THE RADIATION-REACTOR, ACE WAITS AS AN ENERGY-TENTACLE REACHES OUT GREEDILY, THEN...

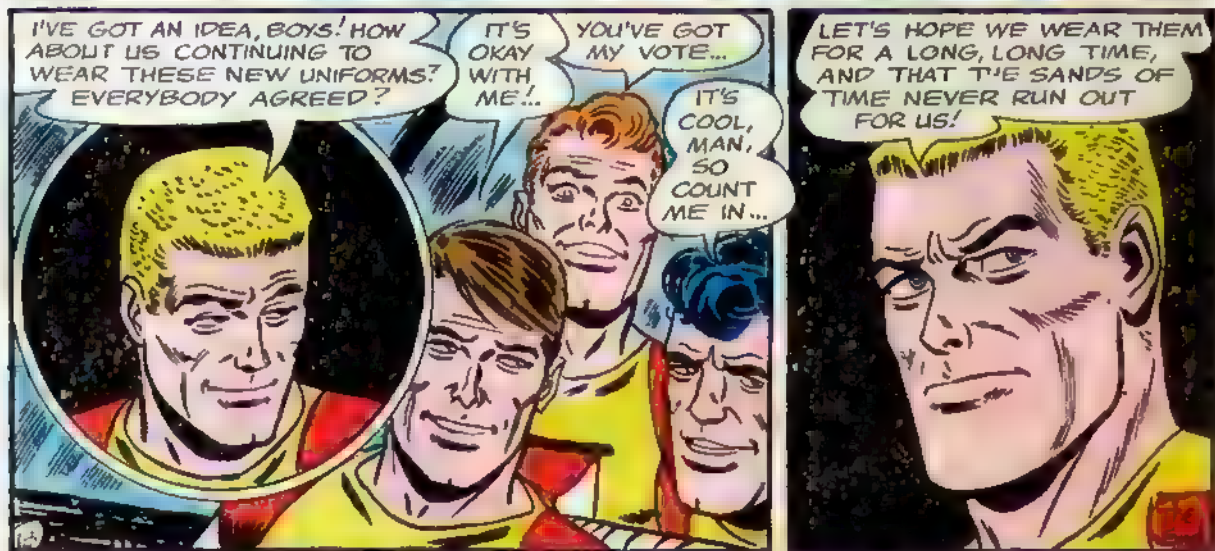
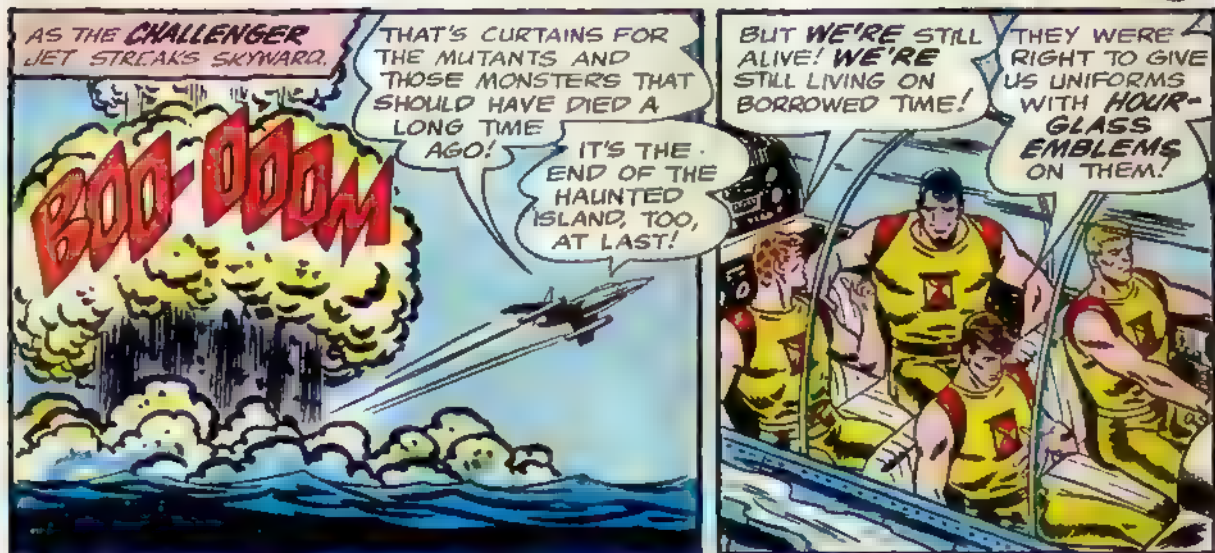
ANYTHING CAN HAPPEN NOW-- BUT I'VE GOT A HUNCH...







CHALLENGERS OF THE UNKNOWN



STATEMENT OF OWNERSHIP, MANAGEMENT AND CIRCULATION (Act of October 23, 1962; Section 4369, Title 39, United States Code)

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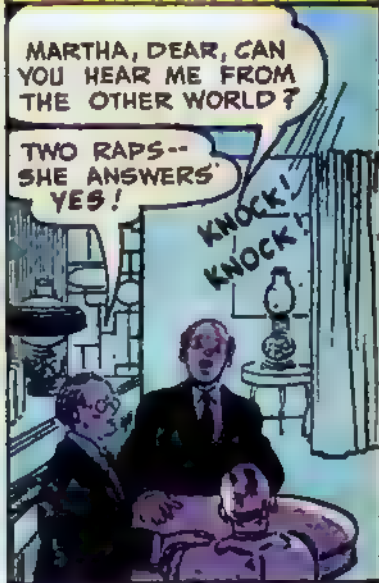
I certify that the statements made by me above are correct and complete. IRWIN DONENFELD, Business Manager.

NOISY GHOSTS

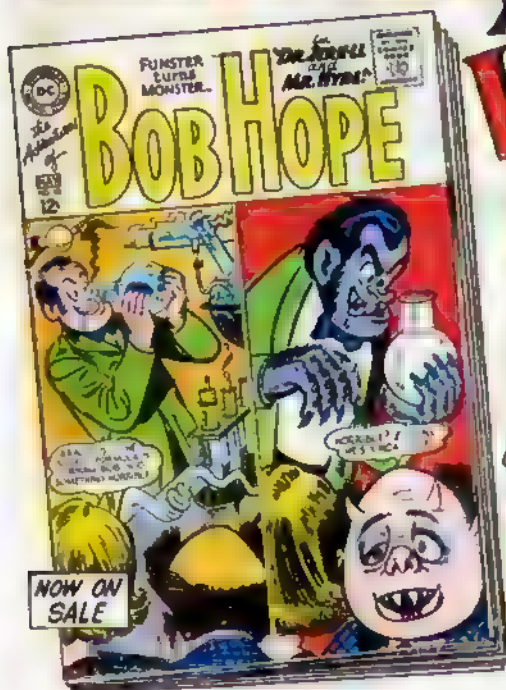
GHOSTS THAT ARE HEARD BUT NOT SEEN ARE CALLED **POLTERGEISTS**. TYPICAL OF THE SOUNDS HEARD ARE LOUD BANGINGS, KNOCKS ON WALLS AND FURNITURE, SMASHING GLASS AND CROCKERY...

WHILE "VISIBLE" GHOSTS PRESUMABLY HAUNT HOUSES FOR A LONG TIME, THE NOISY, UN-SEEN GHOST MAKES HIS VISITS SUDDEN AND OF SHORT DURATION...

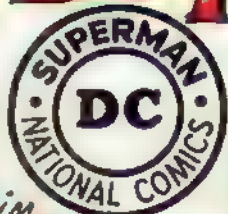
POLTERGEIST VICTIMS CLAIM THAT THERE'S "INTELLIGENCE" BEHIND THE MANEUVERINGS OF NOISY GHOSTS...



EVEN MORE ASTONISHING IS THE "ABILITY" OF POLTERGEISTS FOR ANSWERING QUESTIONS THAT ARE MENTALLY ASKED OF THEM...



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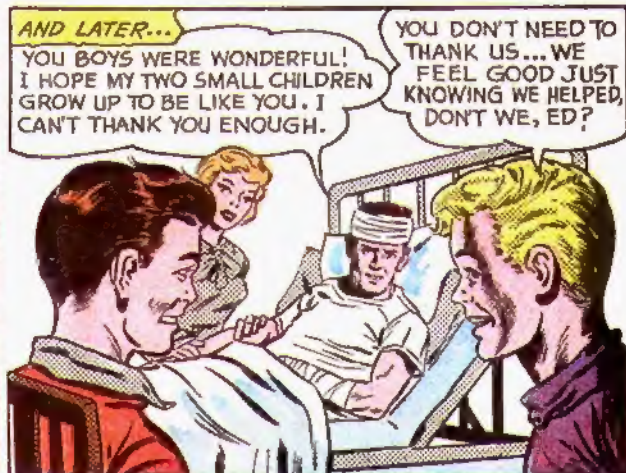
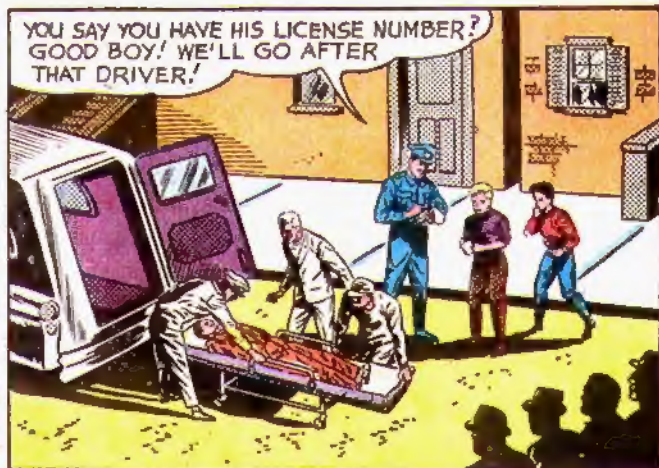
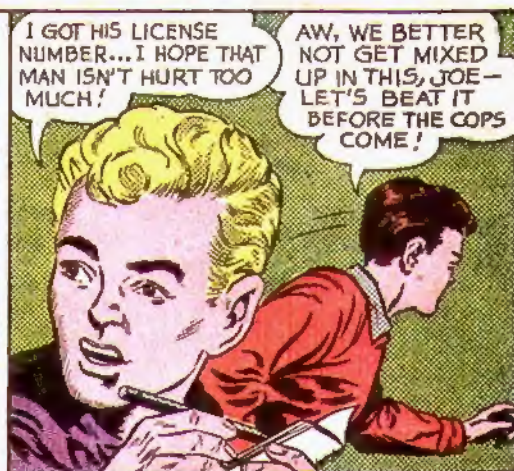
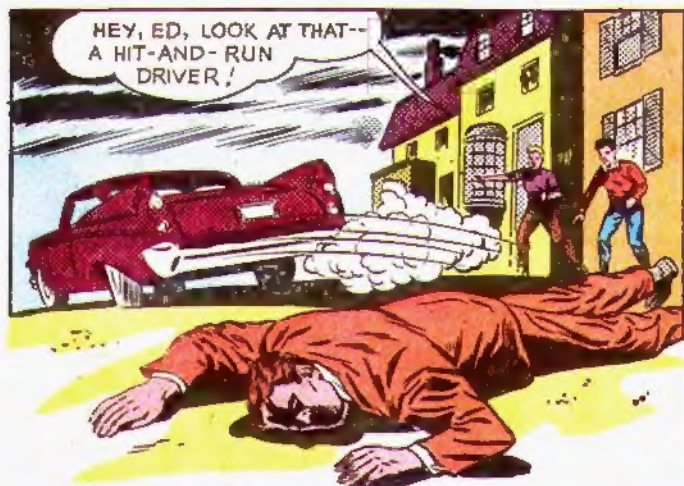
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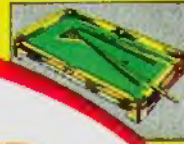
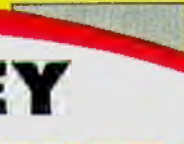
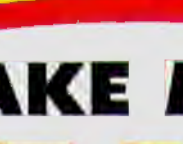
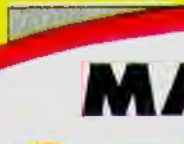
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